**Fuel and the environment**

Note that you may need to use some words more than once to complete the exercise  
  
  
The best way to solve the world’s environmental problems is to increase the cost of fuel. To what extent do you agree or disagree?  
  
Most people would accept that one of the highest **priorities** today is to find a solution to the various **environmental** problems facing mankind. It has been suggested that best way to **achieve** this is for governments to raise the price of fuel. I am, however, not sure that this is necessarily the case.  
  
One reason why this **approach** may not work is that there is not just one **environmental** problem the world faces today. If governments did make fuel more expensive, it might well help reduce the amount of carbon dioxide we produce and so slow down the rate of **global** warming and air pollution. However, it would not help with other major problems such as **intensive** farming, overpopulation, the hole in the ozone **layer** or water pollution. For these problems we need to find other solutions.  
  
A second reason why this **approach** may not be the most **appropriate** is that it places the **emphasis** on governmental **policy** and not **individual** responsibility. **Ultimately**, most environmental problems are the result of the way we as **individuals** live our lives. If we wish to find a long-term and lasting solution to them, we need to learn to live in a way that it is greener or kinder to the **environment**. What governments need to do to make this happen is to **ensure** there is a global programme to educate people of all ages about the environmental **consequences** to their actions.  
  
In **summary**, I believe that increasing the level of taxation on fuel is at best a short-term solution to only one environmental problem. If we wish to provide a home for our children’s children, education is likely to be the key to making this happen.